

Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01

/109 W

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R 050555Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2096

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL PERTH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MELBOURNE 0385

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, AS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT OF LABOR PARTY AND TRADE UNION COUNCIL
UNEASY ABOUT ELECTION CHANCES

1. BOB HAWKE, WHO HEADS BOTH ALP AND ACTU, TOLD LABATT
APRIL 5 THAT WHITLAM HAD MADE MASSIVE BLUNDER, HAD PULLED
"TWO BLOODY BLUES" AND HAD PLACED ALP ON LINE MONTHS BEFORE IT
HAD COMPLETED ENOUGH PROJECTS TO MAKE SUBMISSIBLE RECORD. HAWKE
SAYS PARTY LACKS MONEY AND MOMENTUM. PREDICTABLY, HE FEELS HE WILL
NOT BE ABLE TO APPROACH JEWISH COMMUNITY FOR CAMPAIGN FUNDS, AS IN
PAST, BECAUSE OF WHITLAM'S "UNPRINTABLE" EVENHANDED "UNPRINTABLE"
ARAB POLICY. (CLYDE HOLDING, ALP LEADER IN VICTORIA, TOLD LABATT
SAME THING SERARATELY.)

2. HAWKE EXPECTS ALP WILL LOSE AT LEAST THREE SEATS IN VIC-
TORIA, FOUR IN NEW SOUTH WALES, AND THREE IN WEST AUSTRALIA
FROM THOSE GAINED IN 1972 ELECTION. ON QUESTION OF STRIKES, HAWKE
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SAYS HE CAN'T DO ANYTHING BUT HOPES THEY WILL BE CONCLUDED AS

FAST AS POSSIBLE. THERE IS NO WAY OF HEADING OFF THIS SORT OF TROUBLE JUST BECAUSE OF SNAP ELECTION. HE HAS SEEN FIRST QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT, DUE TO BE RELEASED SOON COINCIDENTLY WITH START OF CAMPAIGN, AND "FIGURES ARE MURDER".

3. HAWKE BLAMES ATTORNEY GENERAL MURPHY, AS WELL AS WHITLAM, FOR DARING TO CONSULT "PARTY" (HAWKE) IN MATTER OF FAIR APPOINTMENT, AND DURING FIASCO THAT FOLLOWED. HAWKE HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY A MURPHY ADMIRER.

4. COMMENT: HAWKE WAS HEAD OF ACTU BEFORE 1972 ALP VICTORY AND HE STILL WILL BE IF WHITLAM LOSES. HIS REACTION IS PROBABLY INDEX OF TRADE UNION AND PARTY PROFESSIONAL REACTION. PARTY 1972 CAMPAIGN PROMISES ARE LARGELY UNFILLED AND FOR REASONS NOT WHOLELY CHARGEABLE TO SENATORIAL OBDURACY. PRIME MINISTER'S HABIT OF REMAINING ABOVE HERD IS NOT APPRECIATED BY HERD.
BROWN

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